



SPANISH

Lesson Summary

UNIT 5

Situations

Lesson

8

Rich Descriptions

INTRODUCTION

This lesson furthers the work on adjectives which you begun in earlier units. In this unit you will compare adjectives and look at some details on the form and position of adjectives.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- Shorten adjectives when required
- Use adjectives before or after the noun with different meanings
- Compare items(adjectives and adverbs)
- Use más, menos, bastante, muy, demasiado, algo, poco , tan (....como)



GETTING STARTED

You will start with the position of adjectives that conveys special meaning. You are well aware by now that adjectives of quality usually follow the noun in Spanish. There is however a special category of adjectives that change their meaning when placed before the noun. Look at these adjectives and their meanings before and after the noun.

Adjective	Before noun	After Noun
Gran, grande	great	Big, large
nuevo	New, another, different	Brand new
mismo	same	itself
pobre	Poor, unfortunate	Poor , peniless
varios	several	different
C ierto	Selected, particular	Sure, no doubt
unico	Unique, only one	special
antiguo	Former, old	Aged, old

raro	Uncommon, rare	Odd, strange
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You also need to look at **adjectives that are shortened** before the noun. This is called apocopation-making small. It takes place only before **masculine singular nouns**.

uno- un ninguno- ningún alguno- algún tercero- tercer primero- primer
bueno- buen grande- gran malo- mal



ACTIVITY 1

Translate:

- a) A certain student said that there was no certain method.
- b) The poor girl knew that she had to wait, she was not one of the poor students.
- c) The dog itself died.
- d) He had big ideas, he wanted a new director.



ACTIVITY 2

Make the sentences singular (Pay attention to the position of the adjectives)

- a) Yo vi los buenos sombreros.
- b) Leímos durante las primeras horas.
- c) Eran malos chicos.
- d) Escribieron las terceras líneas.
- e) Tenían malos pensamientos.

Now translate the following:

- f) One day, he saw the doctor.
- g) He was a good doctor.
- h) The third day, he felt the heat.
- i) The big idea was not necessary.

COMPARISONS

In doing descriptions, comparisons sometimes become important to give the listener or reader a more accurate idea of the object or action of your description. Several types of comparisons which can help you do this will be covered in this lesson.

Basic comparisons exist in degrees. The comparative degree expresses the relationship between two items. In Spanish **más** is used for the comparative. Comparing more than two requires the superlative, **el más, la más, los más, las más** in Spanish. Go to your textbook (pgs. 67-68) for a good demonstration of comparatives and superlatives.

Be sure to look at comparisons in the lesser degree and equality as well. The irregular comparatives and superlatives must also be studied.

Lesser degree - menos grande que

Equality - tan grande como

Note: Do not confuse mayor (older) with mejor (better). Remember this: **The older one - may**

Comparisons may be relative to another item or may simply call upon the judgement of an individual. Look at the following examples that call for individual judgement.

La ciudad es **bastante** grande – the city is **rather/ quite** big, big **enough**

Trabaja **bastante** bien- He works **rather** well

El aeropuerto es **muy** pequeño- the airport is **very** small

Mi sombrero es **algo** viejo- my hat is **somewhat** old

Este reloj es **demasiado** nuevo- this watch is **too** new

Habla **demasiado**- He talks **too much**

El ratón es **poco** inteligente- The mouse is **not very** smart

The comparator is known only to the person making the statement or interpreting the statement. In fact the two may have totally different comparators in mind. The interpretation is relative to each individual yet there is some idea of the judgement made. Do you agree that these key words are in the correct sequence? You may discuss this with your tutor before attempting to write some sentences of your own.

poco	algo	bastante	muy	
demasiado				

Noting as well that adverbs are compared in the same way as adjectives, you can move into the final practice sentences.



ACTIVITY 3

Your tutor will tell you what to compare and you will complete the comparison.



ASSESSMENT

You will need your last two compositions. Find any adjectives or adverbs used and change them to the comparative or superlative degree. If you do not find many, you will have to rewrite some of the sentences to include adjectives and adverbs in the comparative degree. Your tutor will have you share your work in class.

CONCLUSION

This is the end of the work on adjectives- position, shortening and comparison. You have had the added benefit of comparing adverbs. The body of the composition will be left at this point. In the next lesson you will move on to the conclusion of the composition.

!Adelante a lección cinco!